

# Jack Haran, Painter

## ARTIST PROFILE

When did you first become serious about art?

I had always had an interest in art but never any training until I was about 30. In the 1970s, I started to take evening classes at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts and acquired an Evening School Certificate. Those classes were a wonderful experience and a tremendous exposure to the art world. Subsequently I decided to take my academic classes at Northeastern University, which resulted in a BS in Fine Arts.

I moved to the Duxbury from the city in 1990. I joined the North River Arts Society (NRAS) and started to practice my art. I ran the drop-in life drawing class for about 12 years there and because of my volunteering was asked to join their Board of Directors. NRAS brought me into a community of artists and gave me venues for exhibiting, classes to continue honing my skills, and the artistic challenges that being with other artists can bring. NRAS is currently working hard to be able to expand classes that serve children, teens, and adults by expanding our classroom space into the old firehouse next door to the GAR Hall in Marshfield Hills. I have served on the NRAS Board for about 18 years and am currently the president. I am also the vice president of the New England Watercolor Society and coordinate watercolor workshops for that great organization. So there is no doubt that I am serious about art both from the creative side and the presentation of art to the greater Boston community.



PHOTO/DAVE MACCAFERRI

Haran said that it is rare that an artist will paint portraits in watercolor, but he enjoys it. Here he stands with three of his favorites.



PHOTO/DAVE MACCAFERRI

Haran points out that his computer is positioned so that he can see the image he is currently painting on the monitor.



**What medium do you work in?**

Watercolor mostly, I also draw a lot.

Why? Because Winslow Homer "talked" to me and told me to paint watercolors! While touring the Museum of Fine Arts, Winslow Homer's "Blue Boat" beckoned to me from across two rooms. I answered and was instantly taken by watercolors, I then vowed to become a proficient painter of watercolors. I am still working at it!

**Do you make a living as an artist?**

I don't make enough money through art to support myself but my "living" is through my art. It enhances my life in so many ways and gives me such joy and apprecia-

tion each day, which is priceless. Some things are worth much more than money.

Of course, I have my art for sale and on display in my studio and I would like to supplement my retirement with some sales!

**What artists or artworks inspired you?**

Winslow Homer who first drew me into watercolor, the works of John Singer Sargent, J. M. W. Turner, Robert Henri, Joachin Battista Sorra, Wayne Thibault and Egon Scheile are some of the major influ-

ences in my work and they have had a profound impact on my artistic vision. Recently I have been exposed to and greatly admire the works of Andres Zorn, Edward Seago and Richard Schmid. I currently am blessed to have studied with and become friends with some of the great contemporary watercolor artists such as Alvaro Castagnet from Uruguay and Joseph Zbukvic from Australia. All of these artists work representationally. I try to follow in that tradition.



See some of Jack Haran's work at [www.wickedlocalduxbury.com](http://www.wickedlocalduxbury.com)

**Describe your creative process**

My excitement with ART is the challenge of simplifying and capturing an image and the joy associated with this creative process. The discovery of the interaction of colors, the beauty of a line, the satisfaction of a fine graphic composition, the feeling of deep space on a two dimensional surface, none of which existed a few minutes ago, is profoundly thrilling! To be able to say, "I made this happen, this is one of my interpretations!" is one of my great joys. It may not be a great image but it provides for me a satisfaction that is extremely gratifying.

**If someone is looking at one of your works, what feelings, thoughts or ideas do you want them to have?**

I would hope they would have a feeling of the innate beauty of the world around us. Nature, people, living and man made objects all have beauty if you look for it.

I would hope they could experience the mood of the moment and the place that I hoped to capture on paper!

**Finish the following sentence: "Art is..."**

Art for me is a constant educational process. Art is like finding the Fountain of Youth. When I am painting I feel as young and vibrant as I have ever felt. I truly believe that Art will keep me healthy and alive well into my 90s.

Jack Haran's work is on display at the Wright Building in Rockland, 379 Liberty Street, Suite 210. He also displays his work in local shows such as the North River Arts Society's Members Show currently happening at the GAR Hall in Marshfield Hills.